



DISASTER NEWS

Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses

SBA Disaster Assistance – Field Operations Center- East – 101 Marietta Street, NW, Suite 700, Atlanta, GA 30303

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SBA Joins Governor Lynch in Offering Disaster Assistance To New Hampshire Businesses Economically Affected By The Ice Storm

WASHINGTON – Low-interest disaster loans are available in New Hampshire to small businesses, and most private, non-profit organizations of all sizes affected by the severe ice storm that occurred on December 11, 2008.

SBA Acting Administrator Darryl Hairston made the loans available in response to a letter from New Hampshire Governor John H. Lynch on February 20, requesting a disaster declaration by the SBA. The declaration covers Belknap, Carroll, Cheshire, Coos, Grafton, Hillsborough, Merrimack, Rockingham, Strafford and Sullivan in New Hampshire; Essex, Middlesex and Worcester counties in Massachusetts; York County in Maine and Caledonia, Essex, Orange and Windsor counties in Vermont.

"I thank the Small Business Administration for approving this request. It will provide valuable help to New Hampshire businesses that still need help recovering from the economic damage inflicted by the ice storm," said Governor Lynch.

"The U. S. Small Business Administration is strongly committed to providing the most effective and customer-focused response possible to help these small businesses with federal economic injury disaster loan," said Acting SBA Administrator Darryl Hairston. "Getting our businesses and communities up and running after a disaster is our highest priority at SBA."

Eligible small businesses and most private, non-profit organizations of all sizes, can qualify for loans up to \$2 million. The SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. Interest rates are available at 4 percent with loan terms up to 30 years. The SBA determines eligibility for the loans based on the size and type of the business and its financial resources. Loan amounts and terms are set by the SBA and based on each applicant's financial condition.

"The SBA can help these small businesses, and most private, non-profit organizations overcome their economic losses by offering working capital loans, but the help cannot start until they submit an SBA Disaster Loan application to us," said Witmer H. Jones, SBA's New Hampshire District Director.

Applications and program information are available by calling the SBA's Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955 (1-800-877-8339 for the hearing impaired), Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. EST, or by sending an email to disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. Business loan applications can also be downloaded from the SBA website at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance. Completed applications should be mailed to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX. 76155.

Victims may apply for disaster loans from SBA's secure website at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/>.

The deadline to return economic injury applications is **December 5, 2009**.

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For more information about the SBA's Disaster Loan Programs, visit our web site at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance.